

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 NEA-10

IO-13 ACDA-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 TRSE-00 NSF-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 DOTE-00 CG-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 EB-07 /128 W

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R 071430Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2703

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19737

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XV, TGEN, PLOS

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC SPECIAL PREPARATORY MEETING:  
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FIRST WEEK  
SUMMARY.

REF: PARIS 19688

1. WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR BELTRAMINO  
(ARGENTINA), BEGAN ITS WORK WITH DISCUSSION OF THE  
ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF RESOURCE ACTIVITIES  
PREPARED BY THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC  
RESEARCH (SCAR CIRCULAR 359 DATED MAY 1976). MOST  
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DELEGATIONS ACCEPTED THE REPORT AS A SOUND PRELIMINARY

ASSESSMENT EXCEPT SOVIETS WHO CLAIMED IT WAS BASED UPON INADEQUATE INFORMATION AND UNDERSTATED POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE' SOVIETS, SUPPORTED BY JAPAN, CALLED FOR A MORATORIUM ON RESOURCE ACTIVITIES OF 10 TO 20 YEARS TO ALLOW COMPLETION OF BASIC GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH. SOVIETS SUBMITTED A PAPER DESCRIBING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS POINTING OUT LIKELY GLOBAL DAMAGE FROM RESOURCE ACTIVITIES.

2. DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT ADDITIONAL WORK NEEDED FOR EVEN MINIMAL ASSESSMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL. MOST DELEGATIONS, EXCEPT SOVIETS, AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE ASSUMED THAT EXPLOITABLE MINERALS MIGHT BE PRESENT IN THE ANTARCTIC. U.S. EXPERT COMMENTED ORALLY ON RESOURCE APPRAISAL IN SCAR CIRCULAR 359 AND STATUS OF RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS IN ANTARCTIC. U.S. INTRODUCED WORKING PAPER ON OCEAN MINERAL EXPLOITATION TECHNOLOGY AND ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO SUBMIT A PAPER ON MINERAL RESOURCES.

3. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, A REPLY TO SCAR CIRCULAR 359 WAS DRAFTED, URGING SCAR TOAKE A MORE DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF RESOURCE ACTIVITIES. MOST DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING U.S., RESISTED SOVIET EFFORTS TO LIMIT ALL CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES TO SCAR. THEY POINTED OUT THAT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL ASPECTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE BASIC SCIENTIFIC AREAS WITH WHICH SCAR IS COMPETENT TO DEAL.  
RUSH

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**TAGS:** TGEN, PLOS, XV  
**To:** STATE  
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